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INTELLIGENCE REPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE: 25X1X

SUBJECT Soviet Military Activities in the Cottbus Area

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 11652 of October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

INFO.

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PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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SOURCE

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1. On 29 May 1947, an armored regiment stationed in Cottbus (A57) was designated [redacted]. It was rumored that more than twenty suicides of Soviet officers and their dependents had occurred during the previous four weeks, allegedly in connection with their scheduled return to the USSR.
2. Large scale Russian AAA training began on 10 May 1947 and was still in progress on 13 June in the region between Cottbus and Finsterwalde (A15), particularly around Alt Döbern (A35). Soviet batteries were using a new type phosphorus shell. All witnesses agree that fire was directed, not against single targets, but against a number of airborne targets flown in by an entire squadron.
3. As a result of the use of phosphorus shells, the Alt Döbern forest caught fire on 23 May 1947 and was still ablaze on 13 June. Local inhabitants estimate that approximately 3,000 hectares were destroyed up to the end of May. It is believed that the entire forest area may be destroyed; the high number of fire centers produced by shell splinters make fire-fighting ineffective and the Russians have forbidden the Landratsamt Calau (A26) to mobilize additional auxiliary firemen. SMA Cottbus has prohibited the publication of any details concerning the conflagration.
4. A Soviet pool of German tanks, mostly Tiger types, which has been maintained at Petershain (A45) for the last two years, is now estimated by local residents to contain 1,500 vehicles. Included in this total are 350 new Tigers captured by the Russians from the Sixth SS Panzer Corps on the Hungarian Front.
5. Recently the new tanks, as well as some repaired ones, have been withdrawn from the Petershain pool, moved to Welzow (A44), and loaded on trains. Damaged tanks still in the pool are being repaired and refitted by German workers on day and night shifts. These laborers, who live under guard, include mechanics and skilled workers from the immediate region, as well as others from Cottbus, Calau and Finsterwalde.

Comment:

[redacted] the tanks loaded at Welzow are new and repaired vehicles and not discarded, as was suggested, for scrap metal dumps.)

NO CHANGE in Class.

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